

LONDON PRIDE

to sectarian schools" Lord Rosebery, under Webb's inspiration made a great speech at Colchester in favour of education and nothing but education At once, the thunder began to rumble A few weeks later, at a mass meeting in St James' Hall, London, with all the Liberal stalwarts on the platform, he not only recanted he armed himself with a tomahawk against the Balfour Education Bill, and refused to see the "vast expansion of public educational enterprise " except through the glass of party and religious passion Sidney Webb was present at this meeting as he came away from it, he is said to have done a thing he is hardly ever known to do—used strong language "What do you think of Lord Rosebery now?" asked his friend F W Galton "He's a bloody broken reed/" was the succinct reply

Nowadays, when the 1902-3 Acts are looked at strictly from the educational view, there are probably few who do not see in them the necessary practical approach to a genuinely national educational system As such, he, as their real author, did a very good, but, as it turned out, a very hard piece of work The controversy broke up his happy association, on the Council, with the Progressive party, and made him bitter enemies on the School Boards* On the Council, he found himself separated, on this issue, from all his Progressive allies indeed, the Education Act controversy did worse than that—it separated him, for the time, from one of his oldest and most intimate friends, Graham Wallas Wallas was a member, and a

very keen
member, of the London School Board, which
the Act of
1903 abolished Division from him was
painful No
personal difficulties, however, prevented Webb
from going
straight ahead on the course he saw to be
right if the
Education Acts had to be worked, so far as
the Council
was concerned, mainly with Conservative
support, that was
disagreeable, but—they had got to be worked
So the book